

**MINUTES**  
**EAGAR STEERING COMMITTEE**  
**SPECIAL WORK SESSION**  
**22 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> St., Eagar, AZ**  
**December 2, 2011 – 7:00 A.M.**

Present: Molly Pitts, Jerry Campos, Jean Ray, Fred Harper, Eric Hamblin, Luke Gallagher, LaVerl Ashcroft, Pete Hunt, Becki Christensen, Karalea Cox.

Sub-committee Reports:

Healthcare – Jerry Campos spoke for the Sub-committee. They are meeting regularly. The hospital has experienced a 20% reduction in volume since the Wallow Fire. Preliminary reports indicate that 60% of residents leave RV for healthcare services. WMRMC is working on an outreach program with Catron County. They also have a powerpoint outlining services that they would like to share with the Eagar Town council and the steering committee.

Forest Products – Molly reported that the sub-committee has a plan in draft.

Pass-through Tourism – Becki Christensen reported the plan complete and submitted to EDAC.

Education – Karalea reported that the sub-committee has not met recently. They do have a draft plan but are waiting for input from the Springerville committee and the Eagar Town Council before proceeding.

There were no other sub-committee reports.

Karalea talked about the Steering committee's responsibility to follow open meeting laws. There was a brief discussion about posting agendas and meeting times, using Robert's rules of order and operating in adherence to Open Meeting Laws.

LaVerl Ashcroft was unanimously voted as Secretary for the Steering Committee.

The implications of the vote by the Eagar Town Council on October 18, 2011 concerning the Town's participation in the Northeast Arizona Economic Development Group (the HUD grant) was discussed. Discussion centered around the ambiguity of the motion made and passed on Oct 18, 2011, conflicting reports of the council's willingness to look at another contract from EDAC, along with other actions by the Town Council supporting participation in the HUD grant back in May 2011. There was confusion among Steering Committee members about how the Steering Committee was to proceed. Karalea explained that she had requested further direction from the council and there had been a suggestion made that the council and the steering committee meet in a work session, so the council could give the steering committee further instructions. The

implications to the steering committee, if the council's decision was not to participate in the grant were:

Regional Participation – The appeal of participating in the HUD Grant was the opportunity to work regionally on common issues.

Framework – How would the steering committee continue to operate without a framework for organizing and continuing the steering committees work?

Funds – How would the Town of Eagar fund the work of the Steering Committee?

Liability – What were, if any, the liabilities to the Town of Eagar if they stopped participation in the HUD Grant?

Individual Comments by committee members were:

Jerry Campos pointed out that the fear expressed by some of accepting government funding seemed unreasonable. Healthcare services in RV are heavily dependent on government funding. Without that funding healthcare services in RV would be non-existent.

Jean Ray discussed her concerns about how we would continue to involve other entities, especially the Town of Springerville.

Pete Hunt expressed his desire to work collaboratively as a Region. Participating in the HUD Grant is a unique opportunity and what made this steering committee different from others that he had participated in the past.

Luke Gallagher commented on the fear surrounding the perceived affiliation of the Grant with the United Nations. He felt the fears were unsubstantiated and wanted to move forward and continue to participate in the grant.

LaVerl Ashcroft was also concerned about participating in a regional effort. He felt there are many opportunities that Eagar should be involved in regionally. How would Eagar be involved in that level if they didn't participate in the HUD Grant?

Molly Pitts expressed concern about the reputation that the HUD Grant is beginning to have locally and regionally as a negative effort. She worried about "buy-in" from key supporters if we continue to participate. She also expressed concern about participating in "just another planning exercise."

It was determined that there were compelling needs to continue the work of the Steering Committee and without another alternative framework or avenue to proceed from the Town Council the work of Steering Committee would not move forward.

Eric Hamblin made the motion to recommend to the Eagar Town Council that we stay involved in the HUD Grant. Luke Gallagher seconded the motion. The vote by all present was 7-2. There was discussion that maybe only original appointed members should vote so another vote was taken and the motion passed 5-1.

There was also discussion about meeting with the Town Council in an early morning setting as the Steering committee had been doing. Items the Steering committee wanted to address with the Town council included the following:

- Has the Town of Eagar received any funds from the HUD Grant to date? Or has there been any discussion of where those funds would be spent?
- Require transparency from EDAC
- How the Steering Committee can interact as leaders of this project and what are the Town council's expectations of the Steering Committee.